

REMARKS

Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested.

Applicants affirm election of the claims of Group I, i.e., claims 26-43 and 54-55.

Claims 44-53 are withdrawn.

Claims 26-27, 29-30, 39, 41-42 and 54-55 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for allegedly being obvious over Ichiki in view of Ishii. Claims 28, 37-38 and 43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Ichiki, Ishii and Betz. Claims 31-32 and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for allegedly being obvious over Ichiki, Ishii and Kumagai. Claim 40 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for allegedly being obvious over Ichiki, Ishii and Adler. Applicants respectfully traverse. Applicants respectfully traverse each of these rejections.

Ishii discloses concave antenna structures for microwave radiation; [100-4]. It appears that the Examiner has improperly considered these antenna structures to be extraction grids for plasma. Therefore it is not obvious to reconfigure the planar grid of Ichiki as set forth in the claim 26. None of the secondary references overcome this deficiency. Therefore, each of these rejections must be withdrawn, since the primary combination of references is deficient with respect to claim 26, and each of the other claims which all ultimately depend from claim 26, for the reason set forth above.

Claims 26 and 33-35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for allegedly being obvious over Oechsner. Claim 40 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Oechsner in view of Adler. Applicants respectfully traverse each of these rejections.

Oechsner discloses a source with a planar grid to achieve a highly parallel oriented plasma beam. Oechsner does not teach or suggest a concave or convex grid for attaining a divergent plasma beam. Oechsner refers to the formula for the thickness of a space-charge layer build up as result of the self-bias effect which causes the extraction of the plasma beam without


referring to an effect on the spatial distribution of the plasma beam. Furthermore, Oechsner requires the openings of the grid to be smaller than the thickness of the space-charge layer. Nothing in Oechsner teaches or suggests the subject matter of claim 26 or any of the rejected dependent claims, and Adler does nothing to overcome these deficiencies. Therefore, these rejections must be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, all rejections should be withdrawn. Allowance is respectfully requested.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 50-0624, under Order No. NY-RPP-202-US.

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Respectfully submitted,

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